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AROUND THE NATION

CIA Said Hindering Probe

SAN DIEGO—The Central Intelligence Agency has hindered efforts to prosecute Mexico's former federal security chief for his alleged role in a \$30 million car theft ring, a U.S. attorney says.

Miguel Nassar-Haro, 52, served as an "indispensable" source of CIA intelligence on Mexico and Central America, thus efforts were made to spare him from prosecution, William Kennedy said in an interview published Friday in the San Diego Union.

Nassar-Haro resigned in January as director of Mexico's equivalent of a FBI-CIA. He is presumed to be at large in Mexico.

Nassar-Haro was one of 29 people, 14 of them former or active Mexican federal agents, indicted last July in connection with a stolen car ring.

The autos were taken mainly in San Diego and Orange counties and smuggled into Mexico, where many reportedly ended up in the possession of high government officials.

Fifteen of those indicted were arrested in the United States and sentenced to prison terms ranging from four to 12½ years.